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VENABLE
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January 14, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket: 31653-152135 (RK)

RE: New Patent Application Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) for APPARATUS FOR MAKING A
STREAM OF TOBACCO SHREDS by:

Inventor: Uwe HEITMANN
Address: Schärstrasse 3, D-21031 Hamburg, Germany
Citizenship: Germany

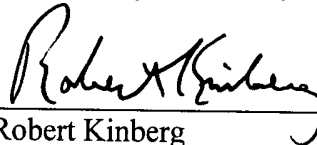
Sir:

Please find attached hereto an application for patent. It is hereby requested that this application be accorded a filing date pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)(1). Enclosed are:

- X Specification, claims and abstract.
- X Two (2) sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-3).
- X Information Disclosure Statement and cited reference.
- X Priority is claimed under 35 USC 119 from German Patent Application No. 199 01 087.0 filed January 14, 1999, the certified copy of which is enclosed.

A Declaration executed by the inventor and the required filing fee will be submitted in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



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